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August 15, 1997

Mr. Warren Brown
Program Manager
Park Planning and Special Studies
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Brown:

Re: NPS Planning Process Guideline (NPS-2)

The State of Alaska appreciates the opportunity to review the above-referenced document. This letter represents the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

The State appreciates knowing from your cover letter that the National Park Service intends to "develop a more detailed planning source book that would provide opportunities for explaining or citing appropriate references to the specific requirements that apply to planning in national park units in Alaska." We ask that this statement also appear in this Guideline document, perhaps in the Introduction, to alert readers that there are significant differences addressed in Title XIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. This will help alleviate our concern that NPS personnel be aware of these legislated differences.

Also in the Introduction, in the second and third paragraphs, we urge greater acknowledgement that the NPS mandate includes consistency with any individual park unit's establishing legislation. We appreciate the discussion on pages 13 and 14 under "Park Purpose" of the importance of establishing legislation, and ask that this be also stated under Section 3.0 of Director's Order #2, to more adequately explain the

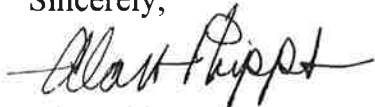
relationship of statutory designation of park units to planning and decision making options.

Public participation is addressed several times in the document, but it is unclear from the "Framework of NPS Park Planning and Decision Making" chart on page 6, or under Section 4.0, how and when the public is provided an opportunity to participate in the planning process. We ask that the Framework chart be revised to include some indication of public participation opportunities, and that Section 4.0 more specifically discuss public participation as part of park planning processes. This is particularly important for Alaska park units given the statutory requirement, under ANILCA Section 1301, for participation by the State, Native corporations, and other concerned individuals and organizations in the development, preparation, and revision of plans.

Finally, while we understand that the intent of this document is to provide general direction for all park planning for the spectrum of park units, it would be helpful to list and briefly describe all the various types of plans that NPS produces, and how each plan type relates to the Framework on page 6. For instance, in Alaska, Development Concept Plans are done fairly often, but it is unclear how these DCPs relate to the overall Framework or to other plan types, and what distinguishes a DCP from another type of plan.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Alan Phipps

Project Review Coordinator

cc: John Katz, Governor's Office, Washington D.C.
Marilyn Heiman, Governor's Office, Juneau
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